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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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TEXT
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: "CONTRAS USING RED CROSS SYMBOL"

THIS WAS THE HEADLINE IN GENEVA'S CENTRIST LA SUISSE THIS MORNING ON A REPORT SAYING: "AT ITS GENEVA HEADQUARTERS AND AT ITS DELEGATION AT THE UN NEW YORK, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IS SHOWING GREAT EMBARRASSMENT OVER REPORTS THAT THE ANTI-SANDINIST CONTRAS IN NICARAGUA ARE USING THE RED CROSS SYMBOL FOR DISTINCTLY NON-HUMANITARIAN REASONS. THE AMERICAN NEWSMAGAZINE NEWSWEEK FOR JUNE 1 CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON THE CONTRAS, WITH A PICTURE SHOWING A HELICOPTER BEARING RED CROSS MARKINGS UNLOADING MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR THEM.

"ONCE AGAIN, THE RED CROSS IS INVOLVED IN POLEMICS IT

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COULD WELL DO WITHOUT. ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO, IT WAS LEARNED THAT **KLAUS BARBIE**, 'THE BUTCHER OF LYONS,' HAD IN 1951 OBTAINED FROM THE RED CROSS DELEGATION IN GENOA A SAFE-CONDUCT FOR SOUTH AMERICA IN THE NAME OF KLAUS ALTMANN, AN ASSUMED NAME HE HAD OBTAINED FOR SERVICES RENDERED TO THE AMERICANS. IT WASN'T THE RED CROSS' FAULT, BUT THE TROUBLING QUESTION AROSE: HOW MANY OTHER NAZI CRIMINALS MIGHT HAVE MADE USE OF THE INNOCENT ICRC IN THIS WAY?

"NOW COMES THE 'CONTRA RED CROSS' AFFAIR. IN HIS NEWSWEEK ARTICLE, REPORTER ROD NORDLAND SAID THAT 45 KILOMETERS FROM THE HONDURAN FRONTIER HE HAD FOUND THAT PACKING CASES CARRIED BY A HELICOPTER BEARING THE RED CROSS EMBLEM DID NOT CONTAIN MEDICAL SUPPLIES BUT ARMY RATIONS, ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, AND WALKIE-TALKIES. IN THE PHOTO, ARMED CONTRA SOLDIERS WERE SEEN UNLOADING THE AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, NORDLAND DID NOT NOTICE ANY ARMS IN THE CARGO.

"TWO INQUIRES INTO THE AFFAIR ARE IN PROGRESS, ONE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON THE USE OF THE RED CROSS SYMBOL BY THE CONTRAS, AND THE OTHER IN GENEVA, WHERE A SPOKESMAN SAID FURTHER INFORMATION HAD BEEN REQUESTED FROM NEWSWEEK. THE AGENCE TELEGRAPHIQUE SUISSE (ATS) REVEALED THAT THE HELICOPTER, WITH THE RED CROSS UNDERNEATH AND ON BOTH SIDES, WAS A GIFT TO THE CONTRAS FROM A RICH TEXAS WOMAN, ELLEN GARWOOD. CHRISTENED 'LADY ELLEN,' IT HAD TAKEN OFF FROM CONTRA HEADQUARTERS IN HONDURAS. WERE THE CONTRAS MISUSING THE RED CROSS SYMBOL, OR WAS THE HELICOPTER REALLY BEING USED ON HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS? NORDLAND SAID IN HIS ARTICLE THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN USED IN THE PAST FOR TRANSPORTING WOUNDED."

IN A SIMILAR REPORT, CENTER-RIGHT JOURNAL DE GENEVE SAID: "THE HELICOPTER INCIDENT HAS AROUSED THE IRE OF AMERICAN RED CROSS PRESIDENT RICHARD F. SCHUBERT. AN ICRC REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UN NEW YORK SAID AN INQUIRY WAS BEING HELD TO DETERMINE THE HELICOPTER'S NATIONALITY, OWNERSHIP, HOME BASE, AND CONTENTS AND DESTINATION OF ITS CARGO. HE RECALLED THAT ONLY A COUNTRY'S REGULAR ARMY CAN USE THE RED CROSS SYMBOL, AND THAT THE ANTI-SANDINIST GUERRILLAS DO NOT COME INTO THAT CATEGORY."

"CONTRAS MISUSING RED CROSS SYMBOL" SAID A HEADLINE IN LEFTIST TAGES-ANZEIGER OF ZURICH. (6/16/87) HENZE

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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